

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-04 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-12 ACDA-08 IO-03 OMB-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /084 W

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P R 170917Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6818

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS TOKYO 11993

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT PFOR JA KS

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS - KIM TAE CHUNG CASE

1. MORNING ASAHI SEPTEMBER 17 FRONTPAGE AMBASSADOR USHIROKU PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN ON RETURN TO TOKYO SUNDAY. IN SEPARATE FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ASAHI ALSO REPORTED SUNDAY DISCUSSION OF KIM CASE BY FONMIN OHIRA AND VICE-MIN HOGEN. EMBASSY TRANSLATIONS OF BOTH ASAHI ARTICLES FOLLOW.

2. BEGIN TRNSLATION QTE ASAHI FRONTPAGE STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR USHIROKU ON KIM CASE, WITH CAPTIONS QTE ROK NOT STIFFENING ATTITUDE OVER DEMAND FOR VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE BY FIRST SECRETARY KIM. UNQTE AMBASSADOR USHIROKU RETURNED VIA JAL, ARRIVING AT HANEDA 1450 SUNDAY FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH GOJ ON KIM TAE-CHUNG INCIDENT, AND TO ATTEND ASAI-PACIFIC CONFERENCE. AT AIRPORT AMBASSADOR USHIROKU TOLD PRESS FOLLOWING:

(1) ROK SIDE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS INCIDENT IMPAIRING JAPAN-ROK FRIENDLY RELATIONS, AND CERTAINLY DID NOT STIFFEN ATTITUDE OVER DEMAND FOR FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG WOON'S VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE TO POLICE. (2) HOWEVER, THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT ROK SIDE WILL PRODUCE REPLY LEADING TO SETTLEMENT OF
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INCIDENT WITHIN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.

3. CONTINUING ASAHI REPORTED GIST OF AMBASSADOR'S
STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS:

(1) TWO WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE MY LAST RETURN HOME.
DURING THIS PERIOD, THERE WAS NEW DEVELOPMENT IN SITUATION, IN
FORM OF JAPAN'S DEMAND THAT FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG WOON
VOLUNTARILY REPORT TO POLICE. HOWEVER, SITUATION HAS NOT
CHANGED ESPECIALLY, AND ROK SIDE STILL CONTINUES TO
PLACE EMPHASIS ON PREVENTING FISSURES FROM DEVELOPING IN FRIENDLY REL-
ATIONS
BETWEEN JAPAN AND ROK. THERE HAS BEEN NO SPECIAL STIFFENING OF ROK
ATTITUDE BECAUSE OF OUR DEMAND FOR VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE BY KIM
DONG WOON

(B) HOWEVER, IT SEEMS THAT TIMING OF SETTLEMENT WILL
NOT BE IN NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS. PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG PIL, WHOM
I MET ON 15TH, ALSO SAID QTE WE ASK YOU TO LEND US A LITTLE
MORE TIME, TRUSTING ROK SINCERITY UNQTE. MY
IMPRESSION WAS THAT THIS TIME NOT NEEDED FOR INVESTIGATION BUT
RATHER AIMED AT SETTLEMENT OF WHOLE INCIDENT.

(C) THERE SEEMS TO BE CHANGE IN TONE
IN JUSTICE MINISTER SIN'S STATEMENTS PERHAPS AS RESULT OF
PRESSURE FROM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS WHO BELONG TO OPPOSITION
PARTY TO WHICH KIM TAE CHUNG ALSO BELONGS.
RE FIRST SECRETARY KIM DONG WOON'S
QTE ALIBI UNQTE MENTIONED IN SAID MINISTER'S STATEMENT, I DO
NOT THINK THIS HAS BEEN TESTED BY RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS
CONDUCTED BY JAPANESE AND ROK SIDES, ONE AGAINST OTHER.

4. ASAHI, IN SEPARATE BRIEF FRONT PAGE STORY HEADED QTE
WILL CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT SETTING DEADLINE; POLICY
OF FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHERS, UNQTE REPORTED THAT MOFA LEADERS,
INCLUDING FUMINO OHIRA AND ADMINISTRATIVE VICE-MIN
HOGEN, HELD CONSULTATIONS FOR OVER TWO HOURS SUNDAY EVENING
AT FUMINO PRIVATE RESIDENCE, CENTERING ON REPORT BY AMBASSADOR
USHIROKU, AND RETURN FROM SEOUL SAME DAY. MOFA LEADERS DISCUSSED
HOW TO ASSESS ROK POSTURE TOWARD SETTLING INCIDENT, AND WHAT GOJ
SHOULD DO FOR EARLY SETTLEMENT CASE. AS RESULT,.
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AGREEMENT APPARENTLY REACHED THAT ALTHOUGH ROK REASONS FOR
ASKING FOR QTE LITTLE MORE TIME UNQTE CANNOT NECESSARILY
BE SAID TO BE CLEAR, IT CAN BE CONSIDERED THAT ROK HAS OWN
CIRCUMSTANCES, TOO, AND THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO WATCH ROK
MOVES CAREFULLY AND CLOSELY, STILL FURTHER. MOFA WILL CONSULT
FURTHER DURING AMBASSADOR USHIROKU STAY IN TOKYO, BUT IN LIGHT
OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT SEEMS THAT IT WILL DECIDE TO CONTINUE

NEGOTIATIONS WITH ROK WITHOUT SETTING SPECIFIC TIME LIMIT FOR
SETTLEMENT OF INCIDENT EVEN THOUGH FONMIN OHIRA LEAVING ON
TRIP ABROAD ON 23RD. END TRANSLATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, OPPOSITION PARTIES, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO11993
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730929/aaaaauxm.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Sep-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORTS - KIM TAE CHUNG CASE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA, KS, (KIM TAE-CHUNG), (KIM DONG WOON)
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005